[Mr. James Fletcher]

over to a private agency? If so, is there any necessity for Government to make any additional expenditure such as this on the factory?

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: The question as to whether the future management of the factory will be entrusted to anybody else seems to be quite irrelevant for consideration on this occasion. However the question having been raised I may inform the House that at present no decision has been arrived at in regard to such a proposal. On the other hand, we are carrying on the factory as a Government concern with all the implications attached to it. In regard to the various items of work which we have undertaken, they have to be carried out and completed. Whatever be the defects in the management, whatever be the steps that may have to be taken in improving the efficiency of the factory, this particular demand before the House relates to works which have been undertaken and which have to be completed. At present there is no question of the management being handed over in the manner in which it has been suggested here although steps may have to be taken for the better management of the affairs of the factory.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Am I to understand from the member that Government will be relieved of the general apprehension that the Government would transfer the management over-night?

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: There is no foundation for any such apprehension.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: Am I to take it then that Government are perfectly satisfied with the working and management of the factory?

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: Obviously some defects have been pointed out in the management and Government are fully aware of them. The Government are anxious to improve matters, and steps that may be regarded as suitable for the better management of the factory will certainly be adopted.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 58,990, under Demand X—Clay Refining and Porcelain Factory was put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XXI—INDUSTRIES.

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant for Rs. 7,500 under Demand XXI—Industries. This amount is required for carrying

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

out prospecting work in respect of mica and graphite by the Department of Geology. Some amount was allotted under this head, but during the operations carried on for the last seven months it has been noticed that certain unanticipated obstacles have arisen for the removal of which they require a certain class of machinery. The amount asked for on that account is Rs. 7,500. I hope the House will have no objection to grant this amount.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs 7,500 under Demand XXI—Industries—was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

Demand XXX—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—Stores Purchase Committee.

Dr. H. Parameswaran : Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 2310 under Demand XXX—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments — Stores Purchase Committee This amount is for the continuance of the repair section attached to the Stores Purchase Committee. In this connexion I may explain that the repair section deals with the repair of all valuable scientific instruments such as theodolites, X-ray instruments, surveying instruments etc. During the last few years when this department was in existence, it has been turning out very useful work. Several instruments which were lying in various Government institutions with minor defects have been repaired and made quite useful. Further Government are very anxious to avoid additional expenditure by the purchase of new instruments. They are anxious as far as possible to see that all such old instruments are first examined and repaired for the use of the offices concerned. In the Budget for the year 1117, provision was made for the continuance of the repair section only for the first six months of 1117. Government are now convinced that on account of the present war situation it has become very necessary to have the help of such a maintenance organisation so that fresh purchases may as far as possible be avoided. It is the aim and function of this department to repair the damaged articles by effecting the needed repairs and this policy is now being vigorously carried out. The usefulness of re-conditioning the various instruments has been testified to by several departmental officers. Hence the necessity has arisen for this supplementary grant to enable the Repair Section to continue to function for the remainder of the year 1117.

The other day I found there was some misconception entertained in some quarters about the activities of the repair section. Therefore I am forced to explain its exact function by quoting a specific instance.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly